

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

160854Z Jun 00

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ACTION PRM-01

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00
	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	INSE-00	IO-00	L-00	AC-01	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	SA-00	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/008W	

-----6397CC 161115Z /22

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6336
INFO USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
COMMISSIONER USINS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 003264

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR PRM A/S TAFT, PRM/A, PRM/AAA, AF/S, AF/PD,
WHA/CCA

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NAIROBI FOR REFCOORD AND INS

ROME FOR INS

LONDON FOR PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/16/10
TAGS: [PREF](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [ZI](#) [CU](#)
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWEAN PRESIDENT MAKES NO DECISION ON
RELEASE OF CUBAN DOCTORS

REF: A) HARARE 3263

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TOM MCDONALD FOR REASONS 1.5
B/D.

11. (C) ON JUNE 16 UNHCR ATTORNEY MICHIEL SALOMONS REPORTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO INFORMATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE ON A POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO RELEASE CUBANS DOCTORS LEONEL CORDOVA RODRIGUEZ AND NORIS DEL CARMEN PENA MARTINEZ TO THE CUSTODY OF THE UNHCR. UNHCR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OLUSEYI BAJULAIYE SEPARATELY INFORMED AMBASSADOR MCDONALD THAT HE WOULD ASK UNHCR HEAD OGATA TO WRITE PRESIDENT MUGABE ASKING HIM TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR EARLY RELEASE. SALOMONS SAID HE WAS GOING TO MEET WITH THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 16 TO PURSUE THE IDEA OF TEMPORARILY RESETTLING THE CUBANS IN THE NETHERLANDS (REFTEL). HE ALSO INFORMED US THAT LOCAL UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE JOHN ADU IS TO VISIT THE CUBANS ON
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THE SAME DAY.

12. (C) COMMENT: WE ARE CONVINCED THAT BAJULAIYE SINCERELY WISHES TO REACH AN EARLY SOLUTION TO THE CASE OF THE CUBANS DOCTORS THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO ALL. WE ALSO DETECTED EXCESSIVE OPTIMISM ON HIS ORGANIZATION'S PART. BAJULAIYE IS A COMPETENT AND HARD-WORKING DIPLOMAT, BUT HAS LITTLE TO SHOW FOR HIS EFFORTS TO DATE. WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION QUITE CLEAR, FORCEFULLY AND OFTEN, ON A BILATERAL BASIS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE AND HAVE EXHAUSTED THE POSSIBILITIES FOR INTERVENTION. THE ZIMBABWEAN PRESIDENT IS NOT FOCUSED ON THIS PROBLEM ON THE EVE OF AN ELECTION THAT MAY DETERMINE HIS PARTY'S FUTURE. INDEED, WE DOUBT THAT MUGABE EVEN HEARD ABOUT THE CASE ON JUNE 15, PER REFTEL, AS WE SAW HIS MOTORCADE ON THE STREETS HEADING TOWARD HIS RESIDENCE AT THE TIME THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD INFORMED THE UNHCR OFFICIALS THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE BRIEFED. END COMMENT.

13. (C) ACTION REQUESTED: WE THINK THAT MAXIMUM PRESSURE

NEEDS TO BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON UNHCR IN GENEVA. WHILE
BAJULAIYE SAID THAT UNHCR HEAD OGATA WOULD WRITE
PRESIDENT MUGABE, WE THINK THAT A TELEPHONE CALL IS A
MORE POTENT INSTRUMENT. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONTACT
THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES AGAIN
TO STRESS OUR DESIRE FOR HER PERSONAL INTERVENTION WITH
THE ZIMBABWEAN HEAD OF STATE IN THIS MATTER.

14. (C) ACTION REQUESTED CONTINUED: WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT
THE POWER OF THE MEDIA COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THIS
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CASE THROUGH A BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR REPORTERS CHRIS
GAITHER AND/OR SANDRA MARQUEZ AT "THE MIAMI HERALD."
THE AIM OF SUCH A BRIEFING SHOULD BE TO GET "THE MIAMI
HERALD" TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON THE GOVERNMENT OF
ZIMBABWE'S UNILATERAL ABILITY TO RESOLVE THE CASE. THAT
ATTENTION, IN TURN, MAY HELP THE GOZ UNDERSTAND THAT
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT CASE, ONE THAT NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED
NOW.

MCDONALD

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